(b) whether a Group of Ministers is looking into the anomalies in the pay and allowances of the Armed Forces following the Fifth Pay Commission report; and

(c) if so, what are its recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) (to (c) The Fifth Central Pay Commission (V CPC) had made various recommendations for improving the service conditions including pay and allowances of the Armed Forces personnel. A High Level Committee was however, constituted specifically to consider the anomalies in the pay and allowances of Armed Forces Personnel, arising out of the implementation of the V CPC recommendations. The recommendations of this Committee were further examined by a group of senior officers headed by Cabinet Secretary. Orders on most of their recommendations relating to pay and allowances have been issued by the Government. There are two issues i.e. pay scales of the Personnel Below Officers' Rank and of Lt. General/equivalent, which are being looked into by a Group of Ministers, in view of their wider implications.

Reconstitution of NSC

1375. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Security Council which was set up in 1998 has been reconstituted just one year after its formation;

(b) whether this has been done because the younger members of the Council were outspoken in their views which were not in consonance with the views of Government; and

(c) if so, what are Government's views on this?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.